

7160 W. 29th Place
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215
January 15, 2001

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket Number 98P-0151/CPI

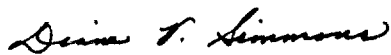
Dear Sirs:

This letter is to state my support for your agency's granting of petition 98P-0151/CPI to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. Animals who are too sick or injured to stand should definitely not be slaughtered for human consumption. Factors such as the risk of bacterial contamination and diseases such as BSE, which may be passed onto humans, must be a primary consideration. We want to avoid the "Mad Cow Disease" panic of a few years ago as well.

Since experts in the industry estimate that downed animals are the result of poor care and handling in 90% of the instances, removing such animals from the market will encourage the industry overall to improve their practices. In addition, from a humane standpoint alone, the suffering and injury inflicted upon downed animals due to the inhumane dragging and tractor-pushing used to move them should not be tolerated by a conscientious society. Since downed animals represent only a small portion of animals slaughtered, the economic impact of prohibiting their slaughter will be minimal.

Thank you for your attention to this very important and critical matter.

Yours very truly,

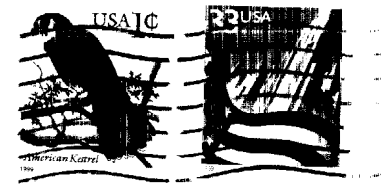
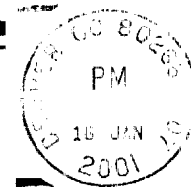


Diane V. Simmons

98P-0151

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